Setting up of a Cell to Monitor Availability of Fertilisers

1373 SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:

Will the MINISTER of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an inter-agency monitoring cell in the Department of Fertilisers to keep a constant watch on the availability of fertilisers to farmers during the current Kharif season and to initiate immediate remedial steps to prevent shortage thereof to any state;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the sale of adulterated and spurious fertilisers being sold to farmers who due to the relatively lower price of urea, inclined to substitute urea in place of equality important phosphate and Potassic fertilisers, leading to a sharp imbalance in nutrient-ratio; if so, how to educate|make them aware of th importance of organic manures|biofertilisers; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far in consultation with State Governments to exercise utmost vigil and closely monitor quality of fertilisers and to punish the deviant traders and the details of latest positions todate of production, import and distribution of fertilisers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) A monitoring cell is functioning in the Department of Fertilisers to keep a close watch on the availability of fertilisers in the country and to take remedial measures wherever necessary.

(b) and (c) The State Governments as well as the Government of India monitor the quality of fertilisers distributed in the country by analysing the samples of fertilisers drawn periodically. There are 49 testing laboratories under the State Governments and four under the Central Government. Action against defaulters is taken under the provisions of law.

The demand of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers has come down after their decontrol in August, 1992. Through various schemes, Government of India is propagating the balanced use of fertilisers as well as use of organic manures and bio-fertilisers.

The production, import and availability of controlled fertiliser, namely, urea during the current kharif season has been as under:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)
(upto 30.6.94)

Production	Import	Availability in the States
32.59	2.06	44.37